

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make an editorial change consistent with what is shown in the drawings.

Claims 5-13 are pending in the application.

Claims 5-13 are rejected as anticipated by JUNG 6,816,207. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites carrying out a first light exposure operation for each of rectangular domains. Claim 5 further recites positioning a mask relative to a substrate so that rectangular domains not exposed to light by the first light exposure operation are in register with the first blocks of the mask (light exposure pattern). Claim 5 further recites carrying out a second light exposure operation (with the mask in the aforementioned position).

Accordingly, a first light exposure is performed through a mask, the mask is repositioned and a second light exposure is performed so that areas that were not exposed to light by the first light exposure operation are exposed to light during the second light exposure operation.

Figure 4b in conjunction with column 6, lines 41-53 of JUNG teach that a mask 129 is aligned over a liquid crystal polymer 112. After a light exposure process, regions J are

formed having a first twist angle and regions K are formed having a second twist angle. The regions J are under the light-transmitting portions 128a of the mask and regions K are under the light-shielding portions 128b of the mask.

Figure 4c of JUNG shows the different arrangements of the liquid crystal molecules in regions J and K and Figure 4d in conjunction with column 6, lines 58-64 discloses that after the regions J and K are formed, a linear polarizer is applied to the liquid crystal polymer 112. However, no additional or second light exposure operation is performed.

Moreover, JUNG does not teach positioning the mask so that the rectangular domains not exposed to light by the first light exposure operation are in register with the first blocks of the mask (light exposure pattern). Rather, as set forth above, JUNG discloses that the orientation directions of the liquid crystal are made different from one area to another by using a mask and a single light exposure. JUNG neither discloses first and second light exposure operations nor positioning the mask to change the position of the plurality of blocks of the mask.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

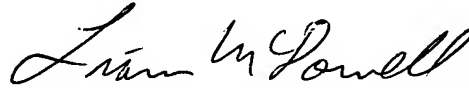
Independent claim 9 recites a first light exposure operation, positioning a mask so that areas not exposed to light by the first light exposure operation are in register with the first blocks of the mask and carrying out a second light exposure operation. The analysis above regarding claim 5 is equally applicable to claim 9. Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

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